

June 5, 2020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

In Accordance with Coeur d'Alene Tribal Code Section 42-3.01 the Coeur d'Alene Tribe Water Resource Program has issued a DRAFT Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the City of St. Maries Idaho Waste Water Plant NPDES Permit. (NPDES Permit #ID0022799).

Copies of the Draft 401 Certification may be obtained by contacting Scott Fields, at 208-686-0252 or by email at sfields@cdatribe-nsn.gov.

Comments may be submitted by mail to:

Scott Fields,
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Water Resource Program Manager
850 A St.
PO Box 408
Plummer, ID 83851

Or sent electronically to sfields@cdatribe-nsn.gov

Comments must be submitted by 4:30pm June 19th, 2020



COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE

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PLUMMER, IDAHO 83851
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June 5th, 2020

Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Lake Management Department
Water Resource Program

Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification for the City of St. Maries Waste Water Treatment Plant (NPDES Permit #ID0022799).

Prepared by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe Water Resource Program in accordance with Section 42-3.01 of Coeur d'Alene Tribal Code, and the Water Quality Standard for Approved Waters of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

After careful review of the effluent limits in this new proposed NPDES permit the Water Resource Program finds the discharge allowed under this permit does not appear to violate the above referenced water quality standards.

The additional sampling requirements included in this permit should allow the Tribe to ascertain if negative water quality impacts are being caused or worsened by this discharge and help EPA in future development of NPDES permits for this facility.

The Tribe is requesting that the city conduct leak detection testing on all of its under-river sewer line crossings (3 known at this time). It is the Tribes understanding that these lines are buried approximately three feet below riverbed surface and have not been tested for leaks since their installation in the 1980s. Some of these under-river lines lie within the submerged lands of the Coeur d'Alene Reservation and may pose a risk of leaking untreated wastewater into the St. Joe river which could then pose a direct threat to public health and aquatic life. Leak detection testing of all under river sewer lines must be completed within 2 years of the issuance of this certification and annually thereafter. Leak detection testing methods may include pressure testing of under river lines, dye testing or other methods as agreed upon by the Tribe and City of St. Maries. The City must work with the Tribe to identify and propose potential leak detection methods prior to conducting leak detection testing. Failure to conduct leak detection testing within the timelines established in this document may result in the revocation of this certification.

The Tribe is committed to protecting water quality conditions in St. Joe River and Lake Coeur d'Alene, therefore the Tribe will re-evaluate this certification in 5 years and assess if reductions in pollutants will be required from this discharge.

This 401 certification will expire 5 years from the date of permit issuance. The Tribe reserves the right to modify or withdraw this certification at any time.

By issuing this 401 certification the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in no way relinquishes its sovereign right to self-governance nor its right to assert jurisdiction over this facility and/or its infrastructure in the future. Furthermore this certification in no way supercedes the obligation of the City of St. Maries to comply with other Tribal, and Federal laws pertaining to the ownership and operation of this facility.

Signed:

Scott Fields
Water Resource Program Manager
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

SF/sf